

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A modular cargo carrier assembly, comprising:

a cargo container connectable to a vehicle, said cargo container comprising a bottom and a container side wall extending upwardly from a periphery of said bottom, said bottom and container side wall defining an interior compartment;

a platform comprising a floor, a platform side wall extending upwardly from a periphery of said floor, and a shoulder member projecting from an exterior surface of said platform side wall, said floor and platform side wall defining a receiver portion adapted to nestingly support the cargo container thereon; and

at least one latch or lock including a catch member attached to an exterior surface of said sidewall side wall of said cargo container to engage with said shoulder member to secure the container to the platform side wall.

2. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 1, wherein the cargo container side wall includes a first portion with a first exterior dimension and located proximate to the bottom of the cargo container and a second portion with a second exterior dimension and extending upward from the first portion, the cargo container bottom periphery defines an exterior dimension that is less than the exterior dimension defined by the cargo container side wall periphery, whereby the second exterior dimension is greater than the first exterior dimension and container side wall an exterior surface of the second portion of the cargo container side wall and the platform side wall exterior surface are substantially coplanar when the platform is nestingly supporting the cargo container.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said cargo container includes at least one projection extending outwardly from the container bottom periphery.

5. (Original) The assembly of claim 4, wherein said platform includes at least one slot aligned with and adapted to matingly engage the cargo container projection when the platform is nestingly supporting the cargo container.

6. (Original) The assembly of claim 5, wherein said slot defines an opening extending substantially through the platform side wall.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said platform and cargo container further include at least one aligned drainage aperture for selectively permitting fluid communication between the cargo container interior compartment and an exterior of the container.

9. (Original) The assembly of claim 1, wherein said cargo container further includes a cover attached to an upper end of the container side wall.

Claims 10-11 (Canceled)

12. (Original) The assembly of claim 9, wherein said cargo container side wall or bottom includes at least one wheel.

13. (Original) The assembly of claim 12, wherein said platform floor or side wall includes at least one wheel receiving slot aligned with said wheel when the platform is nestingly supporting the cargo container.

14. (Currently Amended) A modular cargo carrier assembly, comprising:

a cargo container comprising a bottom and a container side wall extending upwardly from a periphery of said bottom and at least one projection extending outwardly from said container bottom periphery, said bottom and container side wall defining an interior compartment; and

a platform comprising ~~at least one slot aligned with and adapted to matingly engage said projection~~, a floor, ~~and~~ a platform side wall extending upwardly from a periphery of said floor, and at least one slot at least partially in said platform side wall, aligned with and adapted to matingly engage said projection, said floor and platform side wall defining a receiver portion adapted to nestingly support the cargo container thereon and wherein said projection of said cargo container matingly engages the slot of said platform when the platform is nestingly supporting the cargo container.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Original) The assembly of claim 14, wherein said cargo container side wall includes at least one latch or lock for securing the container to the platform side wall.

Claims 17-18 (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 16, wherein said slot defines an opening extending substantially through the platform side wall.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) The assembly of claim 31, wherein the accessory support assembly comprises a mounting post and an accessory mounting bracket having a mounting aperture[s] aligned with a platform mounting aperture[s].

22. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 14, wherein said platform and cargo container further include at least one aligned drainage aperture for selective drainage from the cargo container interior compartment to the exterior of the container.

Claims 23-25 (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 22, wherein said cargo container side wall or bottom includes at least one wheel.

27. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 26, wherein said platform floor or side wall includes at least one wheel receiving slot aligned with said wheel when the platform is nestingly supporting the cargo container.

28. (Currently Amended) A modular cargo carrier assembly comprising:

a cargo container comprising a bottom and a container side wall extending upwardly from a periphery of said bottom, said bottom and container side wall defining an interior compartment;

a platform comprising a floor and a platform side wall extending upwardly from a periphery of said floor, said floor and platform side wall defining a receiver portion adapted to nestingly support the cargo container thereon;

at least one drainage aperture located [on] in said platform side wall; and

at least one drainage aperture located [on] in said cargo container side wall aligned with said drainage aperture of said platform for selective drainage from the cargo container interior compartment to the exterior of the cargo container.

29. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 28, further comprising an accessory support assembly for carrying the cargo carrier assembly and securing the cargo carrier assembly to an accessory receiver assembly secured to a vehicle.

30. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 29, wherein the accessory support assembly comprises a mounting post and an accessory mounting bracket pivotally secured to said

mounting post so that said bracket is selectively displaceable between a first position and a second position.

31. (Previously Presented) The assembly of claim 14, further comprising an accessory support assembly for carrying the cargo carrier assembly and securing the cargo carrier assembly to an accessory receiver assembly secured to a vehicle.